

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-0263V

UNPUBLISHED

HELEN PICHARDO,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: November 17, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Leigh Finfer, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

Camille Michelle Collett, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On March 9, 2020, Helen Pichardo filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine she received on October 3, 2018. Petition at 1, 6-7. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On August 10, 2021, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On November 17, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$80,000.00 for all damages, including pain and suffering. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$80,000.00, (for pain and suffering) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| HELEN PICHARDO, |) | |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | No. 20-263V (ECF) |
| |) | Chief Special Master Corcoran |
| SECRETARY OF HEALTH |) | |
| AND HUMAN SERVICES, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |
| |) | |

I. Procedural History

II. Items of Compensation

¹ This Proffer does not include attorneys' fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

15(a). Petitioner agrees.

III. Form of the Award

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment, as described below, and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following: A lump sum payment of **\$80,000.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.² Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Acting Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/Camille M. Collett
CAMILLE M. COLLETT
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
Tel: (202) 616-4098
E-mail: Camille.M.Collett@usdoj.gov

DATED: November 17, 2021

² Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.